

Dr. Tony Tether, Director  
Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA)  
DARPA Grand Challenge

I want to tell you about one more award—an award that will be a fifth category at the next DARPA Tech and one in which you will all be able to participate. And, you'll really like this because it is a cash award.

We are in the process of designing and organizing a race of completely autonomous ground vehicles sometime in 2004, called the DARPA Grand Challenge. The current thought, is that the course would run from the vicinity of Los Angeles to Las Vegas, consisting of both on-road and off-road segments, including some difficult terrain and obstacles that will challenge autonomous vehicle capabilities. The cash prize for the winner would be—a million dollars! Our hope is that by having this race and awarding a large prize, it will stimulate interest in this important field.

We believe we will benefit from nontraditional entrants and teams who would normally not participate in conventional research and development contracts. So, if this describes you, we hope you will be one of our racers.

The DARPA Grand Challenge website will be posted Monday. Log onto our page at <http://www.darpa.mil/>. Additionally, if you have questions on the Grand Challenge, you can contact us on our hotline, 866-DARPA-GC. Or send an e-mail to [grandchallenge@darpa.mil](mailto:grandchallenge@darpa.mil). We will post the answers to your questions on the Grand Challenge FAQ page.

Whether you are interested in this race as a competitor or a spectator, it will be interesting, exciting, and technically rewarding for the future of autonomous military ground vehicles.

Please contact us and let us know if you are interested through our DARPA webpage or phone number. Together we can make the Grand Challenge competition a reality.